

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group I (claims 1-26).

According to the MPEP, where claims can be examined together without undue burden, the Examiner must examine the claims on the merits even though they are directed to independent and distinct inventions. *See*, the MPEP at 802. In establishing that an “undue burden” would exist for co-examination of claims, the Examiner must show that examination of the claims would involve substantially different prior art searches, making the co-examination burdensome. Applicants respectfully submit that examination of the claims 1-63 (Groups I and II) would not create an undue burden and respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement in this case. Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner consider new claim 66 with the claims of Group I as new claim 66 depends from claim 1.

New claim 66 is supported by the specification and adds no new matter.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-273-7554.

Appl. No. 10/766,993
Amdt. dated September 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 14, 2006

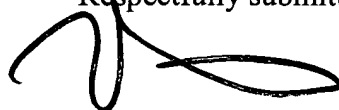
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew E. Hinsch', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Matthew E. Hinsch
Reg. No. 47,651

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